Oil Reserves near Kesanapalli, Andhra Pradesh

2419. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PET ROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge oil reserves have been found near Kesanapalli in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when exploration would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Thirteen wells have been drilled by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. in the Kesanapalli area, East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, out of which nine wells are oil and gas bearing. Presently one well is under testing. The area is under active exploration and three exploratory locations are available which will be taken up for drilling during 2000-2002. Recently, 2D teleseis data have also been acquired and are being processed.

Reduction in Import duties on Crude and Petroleum Products

2420. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is in talks with the Ministry of Finance to consider reducing import duties on crude and petro-products, this was being done in view of the steep hike in global product price; and

(b) if so. farther developments in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) There is no decision as yet to cut import duty on petroleum products.

Introduction of CNG outlets in Coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh

2421. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a specific request has come from Government of Andhra Pradesh to introduce CNG outlets in some coastal districts by GAIL;